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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re patent application of:

Flavio M. Manduley

) Attorney Docket No.: F-157

Serial No.: 09/732,530

) Group Art Unit: 2161

Filed: December 8, 2000

) Date: August 17, 2004

Title: **SYNCHRONIZATION METHOD AND APPARTUS IN A VALUE  
METERING SYSTEM HAVING A DIGITAL PRINT HEAD**

**STATUS INQUIRY - NEW PATENT APPLICATION**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313

Sir:

More than forty-four (44) months have passed since the filing of the above-identified patent application on December 8, 2000. A Notice to File Corrected Application Papers was mailed January 29, 2001. A Response to Notice to File Corrected Application Papers was filed February 27, 2001. A Status Inquiry was mailed August 20, 2002, and in response to the Status Inquiry, a communication from the United States Patent and Trademark Office was mailed September 11, 2002, projecting that the application would be first examined in 8 to 11 months from September 11, 2002. On January 29, 2004, the United States Patent and Trademark Office mailed a Notice of New or Revised Projected Publication Date. No further communication has been received from the Patent and Trademark Office indicating action on this application.

Therefore, applicant wishes to inquire as to the present status of the above-identified pending patent application.

Respectfully submitted,



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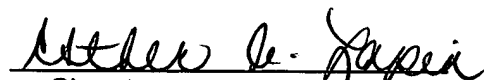
**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

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On August 17, 2004  
Date of Deposit

Esther A. Lapin  
Name of Rep.

  
Signature

August 17, 2004  
Date